

REMARKS:

The claims pending in the application are 12-15, 22-35 and Claims 36-42 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being simultaneously filed herewith.

Claims 12-15 have been allowed, with Claims 29-35 indicated allowable in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Claims 29 and 31 have been amended into independent form, so Claims 29-35 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 36-42 added herein find clear support throughout the present application and drawings. More particularly, Claims 36-38 find support, in particular, in Fig. 3 and the accompanying description at page 6, line 16 – page 7, line 8 of the specification, with Claim 39 finding support, e.g., Figs. 2 and 5-7 and the accompanying description at page 7, line 10 – page 8, line 11 of the specification, and Claims 40-42 finding support at the same locations.

Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the art rejection of the claims. More particularly, Claims 22-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,429, 336 to Ko in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. However, it is respectfully submitted Claims 22-28, in addition to Claims 36-42 introduced herein, are patentable over this reference, for the following reasons

(reference will again be made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application).

It is asserted in paragraph 3 of the Office Action Ko discloses support apparatus comprising an arm 30, 40 having proximal 31 and distal ends, first mounting means 22 at the proximal end for mounting the arm 30, 40 on a fixed support 20, a universal joint 41, 43, 451 at the distal end of the arm with a quick release mechanism 46, 48, 49, 53 connected thereto and comprising a male part 48, 53, a second mounting means 50, 51 thereon for attaching an article to be supported on the arm 30, 40, and a female part 46 which releasably cooperates with the male part, the female part 46 being connected to the universal joint 41, 43, 451 (emphasis added).

Firstly, it is respectfully pointed out elements 41, 43, 451 of Ko fail to form a universal joint which is capable of transmitting rotation from one shaft to another shaft not colinear with it. In Ko, the arm segments 30 and 40 can only pivot with respect to one another about a single vertical axis 43. Attention is respectfully called, e.g., to Claims 36-38 introduced herein, which define various features of the universal joint 5 provided in the claimed support apparatus (reference numerals have been included in Claim 38 to enhance comprehension).

Secondly, the alleged "quick release mechanism" 46, 48, 49, 53 is positioned at an opposite end of second arm 40 from the vertical shaft 43. Attention is respectfully called, e.g., to Claim 39 which recites the quick release mechanism 4 is directly mounted upon the universal joint 5.

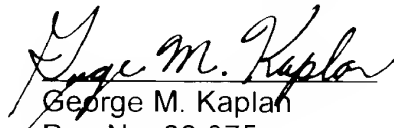
Thirdly, Ko fails to disclose quick release mechanism as recited in the claimed invention. More particularly, Fig. 3 of Ko discloses an arrangement in which the bar 51 of the support frame 50 is attached to an adjusting member 56 using a pivot pin 71 (Fig. 4 and col. 3, last line to col. 4, line 4). There is no suggestion pin 71 can be removed once connection between bar 51 and adjusting member 56 have been made, to constitute any type of "quick release mechanism." In this regard, there is no suggestion in Ko that articles are attached to second mounting means 50, 51 as in the claimed invention; to the contrary, articles are merely placed upon, but not attached to, the mounting members 50, 51 of Ko. This would not appear to be a problem in Ko because there is no universal joint provided in the mechanism of that reference. However, such simple mounting, without attachment or coupling, would be quite dangerous in the present invention where a universal joint 5 is present. Thus, Ko clearly fails to even recognize the problem which the present invention addresses by providing a quick release mechanism 4 for securely and releasably attaching an article to the support as claimed. Attention is respectfully called, e.g., to Claims 40-42 which recite specific features of the quick release mechanism 4 in the inventive support.

The remaining art of record has not been applied against the claims and will not be commented upon further.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment, accompanying remarks and explicit statements in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions. The requisite fee for the claims introduced herein is enclosed.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


George M. Kaplan
Reg No. 28,375
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP.
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, NY 11553
(516) 228-8484